

3. (Twice amended) A data base for storing persistent data, comprising:

a buffer into which is written persistent data to be permanently stored;

5 a permanent memory connected to the buffer, the permanent memory having at least two storage areas, into which the persistent data is alternately written, each storage area being structured to store a complete permanent configuration for at least one of: a) functions, b) characteristics of a terminal and, c) cards of the terminal, at least one of the permanent configurations stored having a complete configuration available and being selected for hardware implementation;

10 wherein the data base further comprises a control mechanism within a first application process for management of a first memory controls writing of the data to be persistently stored into the buffer, the data being generated or modified by the first application process alone or also by other application processes running simultaneously with the first application process; and

15 wherein for a number of application processes running simultaneously, a control mechanism within the first application process, by exchanging messages with control mechanisms of the other application processes, controls accesses, required for loading the data to be persistently stored, of individual application processes running simultaneously, to the buffer using process identification numbers, entered in a shared memory, of the application processes running simultaneously.

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4. (Twice amended) The data base according to claim 1, wherein all of the persistent data stored in the buffer is alternately written into one of the storage units of the permanent memory.